

Judicial Committee on Information Technology
January 9, 2026 – Texas Association of Counties

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:02AM.

Voting Members Present

Honorable Rebecca Simmons
Bob Wessels
Honorable Lawrence Doss
Honorable David Escamilla (virtual)
Honorable Laura Hinojosa (virtual)
Tracy Hopper
Cynthia Orr
Todd Smith (virtual)
Honorable David Stith (virtual)
Mark Unger (virtual)
Honorable John Warren
Ed Wells (virtual)

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable Tina Clinton
Michael Cruz
Michael Cuccaro (virtual)
Doug Gowin (virtual)
Jessica Griffith (virtual)
Honorable Blake Hawthorne
Honorable Patti Henry (virtual)
Megan LaVoie
Honorable Peyton Peebles (virtual)
Honorable Russ Ridgway
Sian Schilhab
Aaron Varner (virtual)
Honorable Beverly Walker (virtual)
Jennifer Williams (virtual)
Honorable Deana Williamson

OCA Staff Present

Frank Barker, Director, Information Services
Kelly Thibodeau, Communications Manager & Executive Assistant

Others Present

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies
Tiffany Curnutt, Tyler Technologies
Jamie Gillespie, Tyler Technologies
Michele Legg, Office of Attorney General

II. Introduction: Frank Barker, CIO, Office of Court Administration

III. Meeting Minutes from September 12, 2025, meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 2025 meeting by **Cynthia Orr**, seconded by **John Warren**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

IV. Subcommittee Updates

A. Review of Subcommittees and Charges

Justice Simmons reminded members that all committees are looked at and reviewed every year, normally in September. Also noting, **any members who wish to switch committees to contact Justice Simmons**. Also, reminded that members may be appointed to a variety of committees.

B. Standards Subcommittee Update

1. Case Management System recommended minimum standards

- This subcommittee is to look at the current standards to determine/update the minimum requirements baseline for what a CMS should do in Texas, then JCIT to recommend for adoption by the Supreme Court.
- Background: This is based on the Supreme Court's order which set requirements and timelines for the automatic distribution of orders statewide.
- Many counties have run into challenges where their current vendor or aged system can't provide the mandated capability, as well as challenges with vendor implementation expenses and budget.
- Attorneys must be served orders electronically through the eFile system.
- These standards will not replace or conflict with the statutory requirement, instead enabling it, and **discussion is required related to applicability to CCA and other cases.**

2. Criminal document types to be included in re:SearchTX

- The committee previously adopted criminal document types to go into Research, so the public could see what someone was charged with and what happened to them. **There is a need to determine additional criminal documents added so the committee can take action.**
- There will be collaboration between the Standards and Criminal subcommittees on this topic, to include determining who can access the criminal documents, based on type and other factors, noting, all current criminal documents are public.
- **There is inconsistent use of fields and data entry, and the possible need for legislation related to standardizing, to enable reporting.** Judicial Council has authority to adopt standards vs. JCIT simply recommending.
- There was an updated version of the Technology Standards (10.1) approved in September, 2025, related to SBs 441 & 2372, but those were apparently not approved by the Supreme Court. **Bob proposed JCIT approve and 10.1 be amended to include two additional categories (Summary Judgment & Response) to send to the Supreme Court.**

C. eFiling/Document Access Subcommittee Update

1. Case Notices

- Tracy Hopper updated the committee regarding Case Notices that rolled out. She noted attorneys didn't want every individual notice sent to them. Tyler is working on the daily digest (summary) and it will roll out mid-February.
- Tracy also discussed **service contacts on eFiling and having a 'deselecting all' feature, and update is needed on the enhancement.**

- Tracy discussed **limiting the service contacts to a certain amount. More discussion needed in committee to establish consensus.**
- Follow-up is required for efile only vs. efile and serve, including, **considering mandating efile & serve in rules.** Large portion of efile only are for evictions, which is problematic for providing adequate notice to the other party.
- Mark Unger requested **consideration of a button-click to be removed from civil cases to prevent attorneys from being serviced on cases they are not involved in.**

2. re:SearchTX fees

- When orders are sent to Research, those receiving the documents free are those with an email address and connected to the case. Anyone else will not receive free copies. This system configuration is acceptable, noting that clerks need to be made aware during the winter conference that they need to ensure the email addresses are in their CMS so this will work.

3. Receipt of Notices

- Laura Hinojosa reported that **many attorneys are not receiving notices as they should, requiring investigation.**

V. Program Updates

A. eFileTexas

- Evan Acosta with Tyler Technologies presented to the committee on the eFiling program
- eFile gets approximately 51,000 – 52,000 filings and \$1.3M in fees processed daily.
- The top 22 counties are live with one or more JP precincts.
- Judge Russ Ridgway outlined the background and status of JP court eFiling, including indicating adoption is happening organically. Also, indicated intent to follow-up with counties not adopting to identify why.
- Discussion of a possible recommendation for mandate of eFiling for JP courts and for pro se filers. **Justice Simmons indicated the JP discussion will be added to the next agenda for continued discussion.**
- Mr. Acosta continued, reporting that current return for correction rate is still below the national average with Texas reporting and average of 7.54% compared to the national average of 7.6%. He reported that filer requests are taking a dip in terms of historical averages, however, the Judges requests are going up possibly due to more proposed orders being filed.
- Completion Rate continues to improve, now at 40%. Guide & File Return Rates are decreasing, down to 16.42% in December.
- **Guide and File obstacles were previously identified and may be an opportunity to further improve.** There was further discussion of **courts refusing Guide & File filings, inappropriately, possibly, instead, following local rules.**

B. Guide and File

- Mr. Acosta reported that Guide and File continued to grow. The completion rate has improved from 36% in 2024 to 40% in 2025. The return for correction continues to be high, but due to adding verbiage to the standards, if it's a guide and file submission, it must be accepted. The return for correction percentage has dropped 4.53%.

C. re:SearchTX

- Regarding the re:SearchTX integration mandate: Most counties, 80%, have completed the integration. OCA continues to work with case management vendors to allow them to help guide their customers to integration. Some counties continue to need additional time to complete.
- Mr. Acosta also presented on re:SearchTX Criminal integration Pilots, Denton and Bexar Counties. Both counties are close to completing their testing. Due to re:SearchTX security logic, Mr. Acosta noted that **there needs to be a discussion over which documents will be made available versus not.**

VI. Decisions

A. Update JCIT Standards:

- Update to Technology Standards - **Motion** made to add Summary Judgement to 10.1, second by Mr. Wessel. Justice Simmons makes an **Amended Motion** to revise 10.1, including Summary Judgement and Summary Judgement Response.

VII. Follow-up Items

A. All Members

- Any members who wish to join additional subcommittee(s), contact Justice Simmons.

B. Standards Subcommittee

- **re:SearchTX:** Determine additional criminal document types for consideration.
- **re:SearchTX:** Address inconsistent data entry and use of fields, and the possible need for legislation related to standardizing, to enable reporting.
- **re:SearchTX:** Determine applicability to CCA and other cases.

C. eFiling/Document Access Subcommittee

- **efiletxas:** Consider mandate of eFile and Serve to avoid problematic eFile Only.
- **efiletxas:** Determine how to be removed from civil cases to prevent attorneys from being serviced on cases they are not involved in.

D. JCIT Committee

- **re:SearchTX:** Missing documents in re:SearchTX: Clerks have notified Judge Hinojosa that there are documents not showing up in re:SearchTX and, therefore, the notices are not being sent to the attorneys.
 - Judge Hinojosa to send Mr. Acosta more information so Tyler can dig into the issue.
- **efiletxas:** Possible recommendation for mandate of eFiling for JP courts and for pro se filers.
 - Justice Simmons indicated the JP discussion will be added to the next agenda for continued discussion.

E. JCIT Chair / Vice Chair

- Determine future JCIT dates for distribution.

VIII. Adjourn

- Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:16PM.